

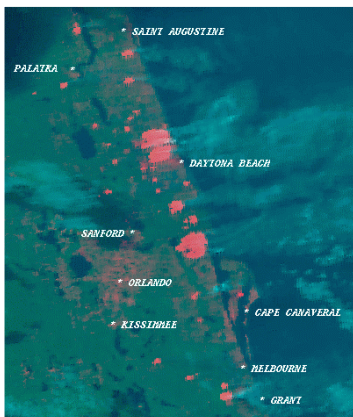
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service Product Processing & Distribution



Hurricane Floyd



Flooding



Wildfires in Florida

The National Requirement: There is a national requirement for environmental satellite data for forecasting weather, reporting on natural disasters (such as wildfires and floods), and assisting in search and rescue activities. NOAA, NASA, and other satellites provide this information rapidly and accurately; unfortunately, it is not in a form that is readily accessible to many of our customers. In addition, alternative uses for this data are constantly being developed. As a result, NOAA must develop, produce, and deliver a wide variety of data products to our customers.

NOAA's Response: Funding from the Product Processing and Distribution program allows NOAA to meet this requirement. It provides financing for managing, directing, and improving the operation of central ground facilities that ingest, process, and distribute environmental satellite data and products. This includes supplying satellite data that makes up approximately 85 percent of the information used in National Weather Service numerical weather prediction models. It also finances NOAA activities to operate, maintain, and serve as the lead U.S. agency for the Search and Rescue mission control center. Funding also supports activities to improve the effectiveness and interoperability of national systems for sharing natural disaster information, especially maps and data generated by remote- and land-based sensors, and making this information widely accessible to all government agencies and other entities involved in managing and mitigating the impacts of disasters.

Since the late 1980s, satellite products produced or under development to support the NWS and the Department of Defense have grown from 40 to 500, and the number of satellites used to create the products has increased from 6 to 18. Funding has not grown commensurately, resulting in reduced staffing for this 24 hour, 365-day operation, with a concomitant increase in the probability of losing operating capabilities for extended periods. In addition, NOAA currently cannot implement 65 percent of new satellite products requested by the NWS and DoD in a timely manner.

Financing: NOAA requests \$27.7 million for this effort, which includes a program increase of \$5.1 million. Of this increase, \$3.1 million will be applied to expand on-site maintenance and staffing levels to ensure that all critical functions are performed, providing vital and timely information to customers during times of peak workload. This funding will also increase product processing and distribution capacity to meet the growing demands on NOAA's environmental observing systems. The balance of \$2.0 million will allow NOAA to improve weather and hazards product processing and distribution. These funds will accelerate the deployment of these capabilities into operations and provide for their continued support. As a result, the Nation will realize more of the intended benefits from improvements already made in our environmental satellites.